

Focus Area #2: PLACEMENT STABILITY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Goal	Baseline	Process Measure	Date Due	Quarterly Progress
Increase the percentage of children in foster care who experience two or fewer placements while in foster care for: 1. Less than 12 months 2. 12-24 months 3. More than 24 months	1. Less than 12 months - 76.9% 2. 12 to 24 months - 46.2% 3. More than 24 months - 15.2%	Increase percentage of children in foster care with two or fewer placements for each length of stay period.	Quarterly	
1. With regions, evaluate regional plans for placement stability and modify as needed.		Regional plans with modifications	Sep 2009 & ongoing	Tanya Albornoz, Foster Care Program Administrator, has reviewed each regional plan for stability. Some plans are currently being modified and will be re-evaluated after they have been modified. Feedback will be provided to the regions regarding their placement stability plans and how they may modify them. The Trends Analysis Committee will also be reviewing data and outcomes to measure how the plans are working.
2. Provide information and technical assistance to regional staff on placement stability.		-Child welfare update -Documentation of regional contacts	July 2008 Ongoing	Tanya Albornoz has been out to parts of Eastern Region (December 2007) and will visit the Salt Lake Valley Region (January 2008) to provide information and technical assistance regarding placement stability to teams in those regions.

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3. Assess policies and explore resources for foster parent support (such as respite care, resource family consultants, crisis response, compensation rates).		-Completed reports. -As approved for implementation, practice guidelines and/or organizational changes implemented.	Ongoing, Quarterly progress reports	Tanya Albornoz will be convening a workgroup to examine the issue of respite, including any improvements in policy in February or March of 2008. Tanya will be meeting with the Resource Family Consultants (RFCs) in Northern Region on January 29, 2008 to assess how the region is utilizing RFCs. Tanya also met with Salt Lake Valley Region, Western Region, and Northern Region RFCs in the fall of 2007. It was determined that a workgroup will be formed at a later date to examine making practice guidelines for RFCs statewide. There will also be a gathering of statewide RFCs at a later date.
4. Develop funding plan for increased support for foster care providers to present to Department administration and the legislature.		Funding plan complete	June 2009	The Trends Analysis Committee determined to look at a national study on foster care payments. This report will be discussed at on February 22, 2008.
5. Evaluate use of shelters for children removed from home and explore alternative options for initial placement.		Written report	June 2008	The Congregate Care workgroup will meet on January 22, 2008 and February 28, 2008. Recommendations will be made to DCFS by March 2008 regarding the use of congregate care facilities.

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6. Continue to coordinate with the Utah Foster Care Foundation and the Office of Licensing to increase recruitment and licensing of potential foster families, provide support, and train in division practices and need for flexibility in accepting diverse children.		Reports of recruitment levels reported at State and regional meetings with UFCF and OL	Quarterly	<p>The Trends Analysis Committee met November 13, 2007 and talked about Placement Stability. We decided to look at Foster Care recruitment, compensation, and retention. We set a meeting with the Resource Family Consultants from each region and the Foster Care Foundation for February 22, 2008.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services has also convened a workgroup with DCFS Administration, the Office of Licensing, and the Foster Care Foundation to examine ways in which the process of licensing providers can expedited.</p>